

SENATE BILL 584

By Crowe

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63,  
Chapter 13, relative to physical therapy.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-13-303, is amended by deleting the current language in subsection (b) and substituting instead the following:

(b) A person shall not practice physical therapy, other than upon the referral of a patient by a referring practitioner who is a licensed doctor of medicine, chiropractic, dentistry, podiatry, or osteopathy, unless the person:

(1) Holds a doctorate degree from a professional physical therapy program that is accredited by a national accreditation agency recognized by the United States department of education and by the board; or

(2) Has completed:

(A) At least three (3) years of experience as a licensed physical therapist; and

(B) A professional physical therapy program of at least fifteen (15) credit hours that is:

(i) Approved by the board;

(ii) Offered by an institution of higher education that is accredited by a national accreditation agency recognized by the United States department of education; and

(iii) Designed to enable a physical therapist to recognize conditions that require timely referral to an appropriate healthcare

practitioner who qualifies as a referring practitioner under  
subsection (a).

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.